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A MANUAL OF MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE. By MARSHALL D. EWELL, M. D. Students' Series, Second Edition. Boston: LITTLE, BROWN & Co. 1909. pp. X, 407.

In his preface the author expresses his desire to state "all the leading facts and principles of the science concisely and yet clearly" and intimates his belief that, excepting the subjects Toxicology and Insanity he has done so. While it is impossible to agree with this view, yet, he has produced a useful and compact volume which should be of great use to those for whom it was written. It is well up to the high standard set by the other volumes of the Students Series.

Chapter I, dealing with experts, their compensation, and the relation of physician and patient, and chapter XIX, dealing with Civil Malpractice, should be read by all young doctors. The chapter on Medico-Legal Inspections, which is based almost entirely on Virchow's works is also good, but the amount of space taken up in the directions for performing an autopsy might have been employed to better advantage in other ways, as they are couched in such technical language as to be of little use to the lawyer. Indeed the use of medical terms throughout the entire work, without any explanation of their meaning detracts seriously from the value of the work. A good glossary would, in fact, double its usefulness.

The chapters on Wounds, Burns and Scalds, on The Signs, Modes, Causes, etc. of Death, on Pregnancy, on Delivery, on Birth, on Infanticide and on Deforation and Rape are particularly valuable, though in the last named the author states that the age of consent has been fixed by statute at from ten to fourteen years, while as a matter of fact it has been eighteen years in this State for a long time. In the chapter on Legitimacy and Paternity, one of the best in the book, the author mentions on page 202 a most interesting possibility, namely "that in cases of a second marriage by the mother, a child of the second marriage may resemble neither parent but the first husband." He mentions no direct authority for this nor is any known to the reviewer, but that such a rule prevails among some of the lower animals is well known to breeders and fanciers. More than a third of the chapter on Personal Identity is devoted to the subject of blood stains and the technique of their examination, and is consequently of more use to medical than legal students. The chapter on Feigned, Factitious and Latent Diseases is an excellent one and might well have been amplified. The chapters on Toxicology and Insanity are all the author claims for them in the preface. The subjects are well outlined and many good references are given. On the whole the work is interesting and should prove of considerable value not only to the student but also to the general practitioner of law or medicine who does not feel impelled to make a special study of the subject.

J. E. C.

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